

Haggai 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.

Analysis

Then Zerubbabel... and Joshua... with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet (וַיִּשְׁמַע זְרַבְּבֶל... וַיְהִשְׁעָ... וְכֹל שָׁאָרִית קָעֵם בְּקוֹל יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְעַל־דִּבְרֵי חַגָּגִי) vayishma Zerubbavel... viYehoshua... vekhol she'erit ha'am bekol YHWH Eloheihem ve'al-dibre Chaggai hanavi)—the Hebrew שָׁמַע (shama) means both to hear and to obey—not passive listening but active response. Leadership (Zerubbabel, Joshua) and people together responded in unified obedience.

As the LORD their God had sent him (כִּי־אָשֶׁר שֶׁלְחוֹ יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם) ka'asher shelakho YHWH Eloheihem)—they recognized Haggai's divine commission. His message wasn't mere human opinion but God's authoritative word demanding response. This authenticates prophetic ministry: God sends, prophet speaks, people recognize divine authority and obey. **And the people did fear before the LORD** (וַיָּירְאוּ הָעָם מִפְנֵי יְהֹוָה) vayir'u ha'am mipnei YHWH)—**fear** (ירא) here isn't terror but reverent awe, appropriate recognition of God's holiness, authority, and covenant relationship.

This verse demonstrates genuine repentance: convicted by God's word, they didn't debate, rationalize, or delay—they obeyed. The entire community—from governor

and high priest to common people—responded together. This contrasts with earlier stubbornness (v.2). What changed? God's word confronted them through prophetic preaching, the Holy Spirit convicted hearts (v.14), and they chose humble submission rather than prideful resistance.

Historical Context

This response came approximately three weeks after Haggai's first message (delivered on the first day of the sixth month, v.1; work resumed on the twenty-fourth day, v.15). That brief interval allowed time for the message to circulate, for leaders and people to process conviction, and for practical preparations to begin. The unified response—civil, religious, and common people together—demonstrated genuine spiritual awakening under God's sovereign work.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What characterizes genuine repentance—and how does immediate, concrete obedience distinguish true conviction from mere emotional response?
2. How do you respond when God's word confronts comfortable patterns, rationalizations, or priorities—with defensiveness or with humble submission?
3. What role does "fear of the LORD"—reverent awe, not terror—play in motivating obedience and sustaining faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁמַע עֲשֵׂה זְרֻבָּבֶל לְבָנָיו שְׁלֹתִיא וְיְהוֹשָׁעַ בֶּן
obeyed Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Joshua the son
H8085 H2216 H1121 H7597 H3091 H1121

בְּעֵד מִן יְהוָצֵדֶק וְבָנָיו בְּכָה וְבְכָה וְבְכָה וְבְכָה
of Josedech priest the high with all the remnant him and the people
H3087 H3548 H1419 H3605 H7611 H5971

בְּקֹול יְהוָה מְלֹא אֱלֹהִים וְעַל אֱלֹהִים מִדְבָּר וְמִתְּהִלָּה
the voice as the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet
H6963 H3068 H430 H5921 H1697 H2292 H5030

בְּעֵד מִן יְהוָה מְלֹא אֱלֹהִים שָׁלַח וְפָאֵשׁ רַבָּה
had sent as the LORD their God did fear him and the people
H834 H7971 H3068 H430 H3372 H5971

מִפְנֵן יְהוָה
before as the LORD
H6440 H3068

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 50:10 (References God): Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Psalms 112:1 (Word): Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Proverbs 1:7 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Ezra 5:2 (Prophecy): Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

Haggai 1:14 (References God): And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (Word): Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Haggai 2:2 (Parallel theme): Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,

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